

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3121]

Notice of a Public Meeting Regarding Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems

AGENCY: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES).

SUMMARY: This public meeting will provide an update on current activities related to international harmonization since the previous public meeting, conducted May 27, 1999 (See Department of State Public Notice 3024 on page 17435 of the **Federal Register** of April 9, 1999.) The meeting will also offer interested organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide information and views for consideration in the development of United States Government policy positions. For more complete information on the harmonization process, please refer to State Department Public Notice 2526, pages 15951–15957 of the **Federal Register** of April 3, 1997.

The meeting will take place from 1:00–3:00 pm on Wednesday, October 6, 1999, in Room N 4437 C–D, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. Attendees should use the entrance at C and Third Streets NW. To facilitate entry, please have a picture ID available and/or a U.S. Government building pass if applicable. No advance registration is necessary.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit written comments or information, please contact Eunice Mourning, U.S. Department of State, OES/ENV, Room 4325, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520, telephone (202) 647–9266, fax (202) 647–5947. A public docket is also available for review at the Department of Labor (OSHA docket H–022H).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State is announcing a public meeting of the interagency committee concerned with the international harmonization of chemical hazard classification and labeling systems (an effort referred to as the “globally harmonized system” or GHS). The purpose of the meeting is to provide interested groups and individuals with an update on activities since the May 27, 1999, public meeting, a preview of upcoming international meetings, and an opportunity to submit additional information and comments for consideration in developing U.S. Government positions. Representatives

of the following agencies participate in the interagency group: the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

The Agenda of the public meeting will include:

1. Introduction**2. Reports on Recent International Meetings**

- Third Meeting of the Inter-Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)/ International Labour Organisation Working Group on Hazard Communication, June 21–23, 1999, Dublin, Ireland.
- Fourteenth Consultation of Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, June 24–25, 1999, Dublin, Ireland.
- Fourth Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Expert Group on Classification Criteria for Mixtures, June 28–29, 1999, Dublin, Ireland.
- UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, July 5–15, 1999, Geneva, Switzerland.

3. Preparation for Upcoming Meetings

- Fourth Meeting of the Inter-Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)/ International Labour Organisation Working Group of Hazard Communication, November 1–4, 1999, Washington, DC. This group will consider issues relating to hazard communication label elements for the public and specialized audiences, and material safety data sheets for workers.
- Fifteenth Consultation of Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems, November 5, 1999, Washington, DC. This group will consider long and short term implementation issues and more detailed terms of reference for a joint committee on transport of dangerous goods and the GHS and a GHS subcommittee.
- Fifth Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Expert Group on Classification Criteria for Mixtures,

November 8–9, 1999, Washington, DC. This group will focus on approaches and options for classifying mixtures according to their health and environmental hazards.

- UN Subcommittee on Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, December 6–17, 1999, Geneva, Switzerland. Among the issues under consideration will be classification criteria for flammable aerosols.

4. Public Comments**5. Concluding Remarks**

Interested parties are invited to submit their comments as soon as possible for consideration in the development of U.S. positions and to present their views orally and/or in writing at the public meeting. Participants may address other topics relating to harmonization of chemical classification and labeling systems and are particularly invited to identify issues of concern to specific sectors that may be affected by the GHS. Participants who attended and participated in recent international sessions may also offer their observations on the results of the sessions.

All written comments will be placed in the public docket (OSHA docket H–022H). The docket is open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located at the Department of Labor, Room 2625, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC. (Telephone: 202–219–7894; Fax: 202–219–5046). The public may also consult the docket to review previous **Federal Register** notices, comment received, Questions and Answers about the GHS, a response to comments on the April 3, 1997, **Federal Register** notice, and other relevant documents.

Dated: September 1, 1999.

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Director, Office of Environmental Policy, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG–1999–5462]

Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Advisory Committee; Meeting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Advisory Committee